

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 248373

61

ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ARA-16 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 SPC-03

INR-10 L-03 RSC-01 /091 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:DPASSAGE:DP
APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JDSTODDART
PM/AE - MR HANDYSIDE
EUR/NE - MR BECELIA
ARA/MEX - MR HAMILTON
EUR/CAN - MR BROWN

----- 063401

P 202311Z DEC 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 248373

STADIS//////////

EO 11652:DECLASSIFY UPON PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF TEST
TAGS: MILI/UK/XP
SUBJECT: MISSILE TEST/CANTON ISLAND

1. WE HAVE INFORMED THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE (CHRISTOPHER MAKINS) THAT DOD INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ITS PLAN TO CONDUCT A DEMONSTRATION LAUNCH OF AN OPERATIONAL ICBM FROM MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE IN MONTANA OUT OVER THE PACIFIC TEST RANGE TO THE VICINITY OF CANTON ISLAND. DOD HAS ASKED THAT WE NOT NOTIFY OTHERS UNTIL 24-HOURS BEFORE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TEST -- WE WILL ADVISE.

2. ALTHOUGH THE TEST, FROM THE CANTON ISLAND END, WILL BE VIRTUALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM OTHER ROUTINE TESTS LAUNCHED FROM VANDENBERG AFB, THIS ONE IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT INVOLVES TESTING AN OPERATIONAL MISSILE FROM AN OPERATIONAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 248373

SILO. THERE WILL BE NO WARHEAD ON THE MISSILE, BUT THERE

WILL BE AN INSTRUMENTATION PACKAGE.

3. THE DEMONSTRATION LAUNCH WOULD OCCUR DURING THE WINTER OF 1974-75. WINTER HAS BEEN CHOSEN BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF FOREST FIRES WHICH COULD BE CAUSED BY DEBRIS FROM THE FIRST STAGE, WHICH WILL IMPACT ON LAND. DOD IS UNDERTAKING COORDINATION WITH WESTERN STATES GOVERNORS

AND THE CONGRESS, AND SOME PUBLICITY CAN PROBABLY BE EXPECTED DOD NEEDS ABOUT A YEAR TO MAKE ALL NECESSARY PREPARATIONS.

4. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO LEGAL OBLIGATION TO INFORM HMG, THE FACT THAT THIS IS A DIFFERENT TYPE OF MISSILE TEST AND THAT THERE MAY BE PUBLICITY PROMPTS US TO DO SO AS A COURTESY. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OUTSTANDING SOVEREIGNTY ISSUES AND CLAIMS OVER CANTON ISLAND. WE HAVE MADE THIS POINT WITH MAKINS.

5. FOR MEXICO CITY AND OTTAWA: WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT THIS LAUNCH WILL PASS NEAR MEXICAN OR CANADIAN TERRITORY OR AIR SPACE. THE ABOVE IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENT THAT PRESS OR OFFICIAL INQUIRIES ARE STIMULATED BY PUBLICITY GIVEN TO EITHER THE TEST OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF IT. WE WILL ADVISE YOU BEFORE A DOD ANNOUNCEMENT SO THAT YOU CAN, AT YOUR DISCRETION, ADVISE MEXICAN AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS. RUSH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: mcintyresh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE248373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DPASSAGE:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: AS UPON PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF TEST
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731212/aaaaaips.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mcintyresh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by mcintyresh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MISSILE TEST/CANTON ISLAND
TAGS: MILI, UK, XP
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005